ernment to an enquiry is that they are considering measures to make the Text-Book Committee of Cochin co-operate with British and Travancore. My information is, that some of the Travancore members are not prepared to adopt this course. I have no information from British authorities; but I have got the authority of the Hon'ble Member for Anglo-Indians that they are also not willing to co-operate with us. Even in case they are prepared to co-operate with us, what is the objection for our Government to take the public into their confidence before they commit themselves. So the very fact that our Government is contemplating to co-operate between Travancore and British Malabar is an argument for me to suggest that the public also should be taken into the confidence of the Government by forming a committee as suggested by me. The second objection is that the Headmasters of schools, who are members of the committee, are free agents to express their opinion. As I said before I have got some letters from the Headmasters, who are members of the committee, in answer to letters addressed by me to them that the whole thing is a farce. And they have empowered me to refer to their letters in case an enquiry is conducted. I make this responsible statement in this House, and I cannot see why the Government is burking the whole question. Whenever there is a complaint, they must take the public into their confidence. There is no grace in burking the whole question. Therefore I press the resolution to a division.

(*The resolution, was put to the vote of the House and carried.*)

(3) *Instruction in all Primary Sirkar schools to be made free.*

Mr. Sankara Puduval.—Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:—

"*This Council recommends that instruction in all Primary Sirkar Schools be made free*".

It would be superfluous to address the House on the great importance of the spread of mass Primary education The commendable educational policy of the State, has enabled it to stand on a high level in the matter of Primary education.

Education in Primary Vernacular schools is now given free; but fees are charged in Primary classes, where elementary English too is taught. I cannot find any adequate justification for this differential treatment. A little knowledge of English, is quite essential to everybody under present conditions. Government's plausible excuse that students, who intend to undergo secondary and higher education alone, need attend English classes in the Primary Department, is but a hollow pretence to levy fees. It is the children of poor people that feel difficulty in

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

finding money for fees. It is not always feasible to determine beforehand, whether a poor child is destined to go up to the Secondary Department. Poverty often baffles good intentions and resolutions. The trend of modern opinion is to make even Secondary education free. It should be our endeavour to remove the obstacle standing in the way of the children of the poorer classes, attending Elementary English schools. The only objection to the resolution that I can imagine is the question of funds. The acceptance of this resolution might entail an extra allotment of nearly half a lakh of rupee on 'Education.' I believe the House should be pleased to sanction it.

Sir M. Visweswara Ayyar says in his recent book "Reconstructing India," on page 261: —

"Expenditure on education, like labour expended upon tilling and fertilising the soil, will repay itself manyfold. Since the nation will reap the first fruit of this harvest, the increasing outlay upon education should, in the main, be a national charge."

Our sense of sympathy and duty towards the poor deserves to be translated into generous action; the moral and material improvement of the State depends on a large measure upon the removal of illiteracy, and the imparting of useful elementary education to the children of the masses, the juvenile hopefuls, who are to be the citizens of the immediate future. Let not false notions of economy deter us from our duty towards these voiceless and suffering brethren. I fervently trust that the House would unanimously vote for this resolution.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I have great pleasure in supporting this resolution brought forward by my friend. I too had occasion in this House some time ago to press upon the Government the absolute necessity of overhauling the very system of Primary education, and to impress upon Government's mind that it is their primary duty to see that all the children in the State get some smattering knowledge. The peculiar system obtainable in the State, so far as Primary education is concerned, has diverted into two departments:—(1) Vernacular schools and (2) Anglo-Vernacular schools. Some time ago a resolution was brought forward here to the effect that all the Proceedings of this Council must be conducted in the Vernacular of the country and the Government offered a whole-hearted opposition to the resolution. That shows that the Government considered that it is advisable that the citizens of the State should acquire some knowledge of English also. If you insist upon the Proceedings being conducted in English, I fail to see how you can confine English education only to a selected class. It comes

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

to mean that only the richer and well-to-do classes can have Anglo-Vernacular Primary education and the poor classes will have to go to the Vernacular section. I wonder what right the Government has to differentiate like this, by giving better kind of education to the well-to-do classes and neglecting their duty to the poorer section of the community. What is much more mischievous is this. Instead of all children of different status coming in one and the same class and rubbing away the angularities and removing all religious and social prejudices that are inherent in our people, Government is encouraging this compartmental arrangement, and perpetuating this class consciousness and social superiority of wealth, and the sooner the Government realise this danger and try to bring together all under one and the same rule, the better for us all. If the Government raises the objection that the expenditure is very high, it will not be a sound argument. Even if it is very high, Government must resort to fresh taxation in the shape of educational tax. Every Government is expected to give free Primary Education, I do not think that any person has any right to demand that the Government should have 100 or 150 Secondary Schools, 50 or 60 High schools, and two or three first grade Colleges in a small State like Cochin. I do not know what right you have to spend large sums of money on the first grade College at Ernakulam, building music halls and dancing halls, at the same time neglecting the primary duty to the poorer section. We shall press this question and shall continue to do so until the Government is compelled to take this measure in right earnest and redress the grievances of the poor people.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—May I know whether I can move an amendment to this resolution?

Deputy President.—You have not given notice.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—The President has the power to allow the same.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—The amendment is not before the House.

Deputy President.—I will have to consider that position before any answer is given.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know what will be the state of affairs if this is introduced in Sirkar schools, and aided schools are made to charge? I want to know this because then only I can decide whether I should support this or not.

Deputy President.—The mover is not in a position to give any answer.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Then I cannot support it as it is.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Sir, I regret I have to oppose

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the motion. As observed by the mover, Vernacular education is already free in Sirkar as well as aided schools. The proposal if given effect to will result in an annual loss of nearly Rs. 45,000 by way of fee income from Sirkar schools. Aided schools will be seriously handicapped if the change is introduced in Sirkar schools alone, and if the proposal is extended to these institutions as well, an additional expenditure of nearly Rs. 53,000 will have to be incurred under grant-in-aid.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Rs. 53,000 monthly?

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—Annually.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The proposal is thus expected to involve an expenditure of nearly Rs. 98,000. English education is intended mainly for the well-to-do classes, as pointed out by the Director on a previous occasion. Of the new Malayalam schools opened at the commencement of this educational year, many had to go without grant for want of funds, and if extra funds can be found, it would be more advantageous and desirable to aid them. For these reasons Government cannot see their way to accept the resolution.

Mr. George Chakkyamuri.—I am in perfect agreement with the spirit underlying the resolution. I am for giving even secondary education free, if it is practicable. But, as stated by the Hon'ble Member himself, since he is not in a position to tell us what will be the condition of the aided schools in case this resolution is accepted by the Government, I am very sorry I could not give my vote in favour of this resolution.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—I can tell you. I am agreeable to the amendment. I should like to have all Primary schools free.

Mr. George Chakkyamuri.—As observed by the Government Member, aided schools will be very easily handicapped. To give Primary education free in Sirkar schools will certainly make all the students rush to the Sirkar schools and desert the aided schools all *en bloc*. So that all the aided schools will practically have to be closed and for that reason and for that reason alone, I am bound to oppose the resolution.

(*The resolution that "This Council recommends that instruction in all Primary Sirkar schools be made free" was put to the vote and lost.*)

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I demand a poll, Sir.

For.

1 Mr. A. Eachara Menon
2 Dr. A. G. Menon
3 Mr. M. K. Raman
4 Mr. K. Raman Menon
5 Dr. A. R. Menon
6 Mr. A. B. Salem
7 Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Against.

1	Mr. K. Achyuta Menon	9	Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi
2	,, I. E. Ambooken	10	,, P. Kunju Muhammad Haji
3	,, George Chakkyamuri	11	,, C. A. Ouseph
4	,, O. R. Chummar	12	,, I. Raman Menon
5	,, K. Govinda Menon	13	,, Sheik Abdul Qadir Sahib Bahabur
6	,, K. P. Karuppan	14	,, V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar
7	Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar	15	,, A. K Vengu Ayyar
8	Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon	16	Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese

Neutral.

1. Srimati T. Madhavi Amma
2. Mr. C. Barton Wright

(4) *Working of the Text-Book Committee and the Board of Studies.*

The following resolution was considered withdrawn since the mover, Mr. A. Sankara Puduval, did not move it :—

"*This Council recommends that a committee composed of the Director of Public Instruction, and two non-offical Members of the Council be appointed forthwith to enquire into and report upon the Cochin Text-Book Committee and Board of Studies during the last 5 years, and to suggest feasible measures for its improved working.*"

(5) *Appointments in the Education Department.*

Deputy President.—There is one more resolution, Mr. George Chakkyamuri's resolution, which runs thus:—

"*In view of the present undue preponderance of the Tamil Brahmins in the higher grades of the Education Department of the State, this Council recommends to the Government that in future all appointments to such grades be so made as to do away with this glaring inequality*".

Do you wish to move the resolution ?

Mr. George Chakkyamuri.—This is a communal matter. I do not wish to close the sittings with a communal resolution. I am sorry it has been put to the last. I should not be accused that I closed the session with a communal question. I shall rest assured with the belief that the Government will be guided by the high principles laid down by the Member for the Jenmies.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Government is serious about it and Government will act up to it.

Prorogation of the Council.

Deputy President.—To-day's business is over. I am directed by the Diwan to inform the House that the Council will stand prorogued, and so is prorogued.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—It is understood that the Council sits for 25 days in a year. That is the convention. So far we have only sat for 10 days, and I don't know whether Government is going to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly